VIETNAM COURIER

December 23
1968
No. 196
5th Year

Information Weekly — E O.: 46 Tran Hung Dao Street, Hanoi — Democratic Republic of Viet Nam

IN THIS ISSUE:

LANDMARKS SINCE 1960 IN THE PLAF MARCH TOWARDS COMPLETE VICTORY
(Continued)
(Page 4)

"SWEEP AWAY ALL U.S. AGGRESSORS AND THEIR HENCHMEN AND MARCH FORWARD TO COMPLETE VICTORY"

(President Ho Chi Minh's message to President Nguyen Huu Tho)

Dear Mr. President,

ON the occasion of the 8th anniversary of the founding of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation, on behalf of all our compatriots and the government of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam, I wish to extend my warmest greetings to you, to all the members of the Central Committee of the National Front for Liberation, and the armed forces and people of heroic South Viet Nam.

Over the last eight years, under the clear-sighted leadership of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation, the armed forces and people of South Viet Nam have been closing their ranks in the resistance against U.S. aggression, for national salvation. Their force has been growing in the course of the fighting and the magnitude of their successes has been proportionate to the fierceness of the struggle. They have added very glorious pages to the history of our nation. Such an achievement can be ascribed to the NFL sound line of resistance. It is also due to the ardent patriotism and revolutionary heroism of the South Vietnamese armed forces and people, to our whole nation's resolve to defeat the U.S. aggressors, to the sympathy and the considerable support and assistance from the peoples of fraternal countries and friendly peoples all over the world and of U.S. progressives as well.

I warmly hail all the Heroes, Model Fighters and Valiant Combatants of the People's Liberation Armed Forces, all the cadres and fighters, and our fellow-countrymen from all nationalities and religions. I commend the closely knit solidarity and stamina, valour and resourcefulness they have displayed in the splendidly successful struggle against the U.S. and its puppets.

The South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation is the organizer and leader of the entire South Vietnamese people in the resistance against U.S. aggression, for national salvation, which has been going from one victory to another, and whose purpose is independence, democracy, peace, neutrality and prosperity and the ultimate peaceful reunification of the country. It is the genuine representative of the South Vietnamese people. As for the Saigon stooge administration, it is but a clique of puppets who betrays the country and harms the people, and is a willing tool for the U.S. imperialists' aggression. It does not represent anybody! It the U.S. really wants peace and respects the South Vietnamese people's right to self-determination, it must enter into negotiations with the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation on all questions related to South Viet Nam.

As the imperialists' setbacks grow heavier, the tricks they resort to to cling to the southern part of our country will become more vicious. I believe, however, that our South Vietnamese brothers and sisters already closely united, will further strengthen their unity, be constantly on their guard, resolutely turn to account their winning position and their position of strength, in order to sweep away all the U.S. aggressors and their henchmen, and march forward to complete victory.

Fired by a burning hatred for the U.S. aggressors and their hirelings who are daily perpetrating most savage crimes against their southern kindred, the people and fighters of North Viet Nam are always prepared to frustrate all enemy schemes against the North, and to give all-out support to the brotherly South, in implementation of their sacred duty as the great rear area toward the great heroic front.

Our people will certainly carry the day!

The U.S. imperialists will surely be defeated!

I avail myself of this opportunity to renew to you, to all the members of the Central Committee of the NFL, all our southern people, cadres and fighters, youth and children, my most affectionate regards and my "determination to win" greetings.

Hanoi, December 19, 1968

HO CHI MINH

"CLOSE OUR RANKS, STIFFEN OUR DETERMINATION TO FIGHT AND TO WIN"

(NFL CC founding anniversary appeal)

THE Central Committee of the South Viet Nam NFL has launched an important appeal on the 8th founding anniversary (Dec. 20) of the NFL.

It recalled the developments which led to the emergence of the NFL on Dec. 20, 1960 and the successes scored by the South Viet Nam people and armed forces led by the NFL in their struggle against U.S. aggression, for national salvation, especially the resounding ones since Tet.

It expressed the boundless gratitude of South Viet Nam to kindred North Viet Nam for its wholehearted assistance to the liberation revolution in South Viet Nam, and its heartfelt thanks to the socialist countries, the people and government of Cambodia, the Lao people and the Lao Patriotic Front, the peace- and justice-loving people in the world and U.S. progressives for their staunch support and assistance to the South Vietnamese people.

It went on to say:

"The U.S. imperialists have been defeated in the northern half of our country. They are being defeated in the South. Still, obdurate, savage and crafty by nature, they have not given up their aggressive design. After having had to end unconditionally the bombings on the whole DRVN territory, they continue attacking the Demilitarized Zone and with their airforce violating the sovereignty and threatening the security of the DRVN.

"In the South, the U.S. is clinging to a handful of puppets—the Thieu-Ky-Huong clique who are rotten to the marrow-and stepping up the war with extremely savage methods, using B-52 aircraft, bombs, shells and noxious chemicals to devastate both rural and urban areas, intensifying their terror operations, killing our people en masse. In certain hamlets, the enemy has in one sweep buried alive dozens of old people, women and children, in the course of the execution of their so-called "emergency pacification" programme and their *Operation Eagle*. They are forcing the people to join the "popular forces" and to act as spies and informers in the hope of penning our people up in "strategic hamlets," thereby restoring the system of

(*Continued page 2*)

View of the Presidium of the grand meeting held in Hanoi on Dec. 18, 1968 in commemoration of the 8th founding anniversary of the South Viet Nam NFL.
Centre: President Ho Chi Minh

Hanoi Press...

THE BANNER OF VICTORY

UNDER the impact of heavy setbacks in both zones of Viet Nam, the U.S. aggressors have had to unconditionally end the bombing on the whole of North Viet Nam and accept talks with the representative of the NFL. But they have not yet given up their dark design and are squirming frantically. While holding up the quadripartite conference in Paris they continue pushing up the war of aggression in South Viet Nam and increasing their provocations against the North. They are daily perpetrating heinous crimes against our people. In face of this situation, President Ho Chi Minh has unequivocally stated his view:

As the imperialists' setbacks grow heavier, the tricks they resort to cling to the southern part of our country will become more vicious. We believe, however, that our South Vietnamese brothers and sisters already closely united will further strengthen their unity, be constantly on their guard, resolutely turn to account their winning position and their position of strength, in order to sweep away all the U.S. aggressors and their henchmen, and march forward to complete victory.

There is no doubt that our Southern compatriots and fighters live up to confidence of our esteemed President Ho Chi Minh and the North Vietnamese people. The gunfire sodevastating for the enemy is clattering all over the great front. The South Viet Nam fighters and people have given voice to their iron-like determination in the Dec.16,1968 appeal of the Central Committee of the NFL:

"As long as the U.S. continues its aggression against our country our people will keep up their resolve to fight and to win so as to wrest back our sacred national rights. We shall fight them in the countryside we shall confront them in the towns, we shall engage them in the mountains — and with every means. Such is our inalienable right to self-defence."

Turning their thoughts, sentiments and deeds to the kindred South, the North Viet Nam army and people pledge themselves to stand shoulder toshoulder with their Southern compatriots and fighters, determined to bring the war of resistance against U.S aggression, for national salvation, to complete victory. Implementing President Ho Chi Minh's instructions, the North Viet Nam army and people are ready at all times to thwart all schemes of the U.S. against the North, make every effort to support the brotherly South, thereby fulfilling their sacred duty as the great rear towards the great front.

"CLOSE OUR RANKS, STIFFEN OUR DETERMINATION TO FIGHT AND TO WIN"

(*Continued from page 1*)

vast disguised prisons in South Viet Nam.

"At the beck and call of their U.S. master, the puppet Thieu-Ky-Huong administration is frantically pushing up forcible conscription, plunder and exploitation and, through tax increases and inflation, trying to finance the war budget, causing a sharp rise in the cost of living, especially in the price of rice, thus aggravating the destitution of millions of our people in those urban and rural areas still under their control.

"They are persecuting and repressing anyone who is for independence and peace, stamping out the minimum democratic liberties through the arbitrary closing down of a dozen newspapers, and making raids, searches and arrests by day and by night against peaceful people. The life of the people of all strata in areas under their control has become unbearable.

"The puppets are opposing the imperative demands of all strata of the South Vietnamese people who desire an early end to the U.S. imperialists' war of aggression, and are longing for peace, democracy and a better life. They have tried to delay the Paris conference on Viet Nam by refusing first to attend this parley whose purpose it is to seek a political solution to the South Viet Nam problem. Now that they have been forced to come round, they are hatching dark schemes to sabotage it with the aim of prolonging the war of aggression of the U.S. imperialists, thereby surviving as lackeys of the U.S.

"In such a situation, it is the sacred task of all our armed forces and our entire people to close their ranks, stiffen their determination to fight and to win, and persevere in the effort to break the aggressive will of the U.S. imperialists, overthrow the puppet Thieu-Ky-Huong administration, and win ultimate complete victory, achieve independence, democracy, peace, neutrality and prosperity, and finally realizing national peaceful reunification.

"As long as the U.S. continues its aggression against our country our people will keep up their resolve to fight and to win so as to wrest back our sacred national rights. We shall fight them in the countryside, we shall confront them in the towns, we shall engage them in the mountains — and with every means. Such is our inalienable right to self-defence.

"The puppet Thieu-Ky-Huong administration is a clique of traitors and an instrument for carrying out the U.S. imperialists' war of aggression. It is hated by our entire people, and will inevitably be toppled."

The NFL appeal stressed:

"Our people eagerly want peace to rebuild their wartorn country, but this must be a genuine peace, a peace in independence and freedom. That is why, at present in the cities and other areas still under U.S.-puppet control, our people from all walks of life belonging to all religious beliefs, many officers, soldiers and personnel of the puppet administration are pressing for an end to the war and the restoration of peace, the setting up of a peace government and negotiations with the South Viet Nam NFL, with a view to forming a broad coalition government representing the interests of all strata of the South Viet Nam people.

"The sound five-point position of the NFL on the political settlement of the Viet Nam problem and its goodwill attitude shown in the acceptance to take part in a quadripartite conference as opposed in the statement of Nov. 3 of the NFL Central Committee has enlisted warm approval and support from our people throughout the country and progressive opinion all over the world.

"We resolutely demand that the U.S. give up for good all its acts of encroachment upon the sovereignty and security of the DRVN, stop its war of aggression in South Viet Nam, withdraw all U.S. and satellite troops and war means from South Viet Nam, let the internal affairs of South Viet Nam be settled by the South Vietnamese people themselves in accordance with the NFL Political Programme, without foreign interference, and leave the reunification of Viet Nam to be solved by the Vietnamese people in the two zones, free from outside intervention. This is our principle-like line. It has been transformed into an iron-like determination of all our armed forces and our entire people. No hostile force, no crafty manoeuvre can make our people depart from it.

"At present, we are enjoying a host of very favourable conditions. Many new possibilities have been opened for us. Our position is very steady, our strength very great and our policy very sound. The whole progressive mankind is supporting us. We shall certainly gain complete victory."

The appeal ended with an exhortation to the entire South Viet Nam people and armed forces to march forwards in the flush of their successes with a grim determination to win new greater and all-round victories, shatter the U.S. imperialists' aggressive will, depose the Thieu-Ky-Huong puppet administration, wrest back all the power to the people in order to liberate South Viet Nam, defend North Viet Nam and achieve ultimate national reunification.

The army and people of North Viet Nam stirred by profound love for their southern compatriots are day and night turning their thoughts to the beloved South, being on their mettle in production, combat and serving the fighting, and resolutely with their Southern compatriots pushing up the resistance to U.S. aggression, for national salvation, till final victory.

North and South are of one mind! All for our victory over the U.S. aggressors!

South Viet Nam will win!

South and North will surely be reunited!

Quan Doi Nhan Dan
(*People's Army*)
Dec. 20, 1968

...Opinion

The U.S imperialists will certainly be defeated!

Our people are bound to win!

Nhan Dan (*The people*)
Dec. 20, 1968

THE whole of our country is living grave hours of our history. The war of resistance is calling for our people's greatest efforts, unflinching endurance and highest determination to win.

In response to the sacred appeal of President Ho Chi Minh, the army and people of South Viet Nam are holding high their victorious banner, dashing forward in the impetus of victories and overcoming all hardships and accepting all sacrifices, mounting continual offensives and uprisings, stepping up military offensives and political actions, determined to gain still bigger and more all-round victories, foil the aggressive design of the U.S. imperialists, overthrow the Thieu - Ky - Huong puppet administration and advance to complete victory.

BY the end of November, in the spirit of "relentless offensive" on the production front, many industrial entreprises and mines in North Viet Nam had fulfilled their 1968 plans ahead of schedule.

In Hanoi, on Oct. 26 the Soap Factory completed its 1968 programme. One month later, on Nov. 26, the factory overfulfilled its supplementary plan amounting to 20 per cent of the yearly plan. The value of gross output of the factory increased by 21.5 per cent compared with that set in the yearly plan. The output of main products such as soap, tooth paste shot up by from 20 to 57.5 per cent. The factory also turned out 5 more tons of special soaps as a gift to the South Vietnamese people.

Many local industry enterprises in Hanoi such as the Tran Hung Gong Enc, Hong Thai and Nam Thai mechanical engineering workshops, and the Mai Lam iron-smelting enterprise and Diesel motor factory, have also implemented their 1968 plans before time.

In Haiphong, the biggest port city of North Viet Nam, by the end of Sept. 12 enterprises including relatively big ones such as the Kien An Mechanical Engineering Factory, the Shipbuilding Yard X., and the Chemical Paints Works, had successfully carried out their annual plans.

The Shipbuilding Yard X., which had been the target of 13 U.S. air raids with some 3,000 bombs of various kinds, did a good job of civil defence and improved the management of production, thereby increasing productivity by 16.4 per cent and cutting down production costs by 1.9 per cent as compared with last year.

The Tan Long Iron-Smelting Enterprise has brought to fruition its yearly plan two months and 23 days before deadline. Workers in the enterprise have held many small symposiums on metallurgical techniques in which they devised many innovations, 34 of which have been awarded bonuses.

The Haiphong engineering branch as a whole has fulfilled its yearly plan 24 days ahead of schedule and achieved an output value higher than in any year before the U.S. war of destruction.

In the first month of the "Respond to President Ho Chi Minh's Nov. 3, 1968 appeal" drive, workers of the engineering factories in Haiphong produced dozens of new items for agricultural, fishery and salt-making enterprises and for daily consumption. The number of launches, motor boats and ferries built by the enterprises serving communications and transport rose by 3 or even 4 times compared with the previous years.

In the first nine months of this year, workers of the Haiphong engineering branch applied nearly 1,000 technical ques to increase labour efficiency in the other sections of the undertaking. Excavator driver Ngo Dan, by rationally lining up the trucks while loading coal, thus cutting by a half the turns of his machine, achieved the record of 4,120 cubic metres of coal per shift.

In Thai Binh province by Nov. 25 the 1 September 27 Engineering Factory had overfulfilled its 1968 plan with a 30 per cent increase in output value compared with last year.

According to initial tally, by the end of November the centrally-run textile enterprises of North Viet Nam altogether had turned out 7.5 million metres of fabric above the 1968 plan.

Since early this year, in response to the DRVN decision to present the South Vietnamese people with 50,000 tons of rice, 10,000,000 metres of fabric and 100 tons of medicines, the North Vietnamese textile workers have successively launched many short-term drives within the framework of the emulation movement called "Ten Million Extra-plan Metres of Fabric for Kindred South", "Exchange of presents" have been regularly held among the workers. Many dilapidated machines have been repaired or overhauled to increase production means for the textile enterprises. Meetings were productive of successes or condemn the enemy's atrocities and each time the emulation movement is given a strong fillip.

In the past year the action became more vigorous than ever, stimulated by the big victories recorded since early this Spring by the armed forces and people in Hué and Saigon and the rest of South Viet Nam. In their fight against the U.S. air war of destruction, army units, armed security forces, militia and self-defence units in Hanoi promoted the readiness to make unqualified sacrifices for the Fatherland. The Hanoi armed forces shot down many U.S. planes in the competition to shoot down the 3,000th enemy plane. Since the U.S. aggressors were forced to a "limited bombing" then to an unconditionally halt of aerial, naval and artillery bombings on the whole territory of North Viet Nam, the Hanoi armed forces have been displaying great zeal in the drilling and high vigilance in their task of defending the capital city. Directly serving the fighting, the communication branch has maintained traffic open in all circumstances. Many of its units have fulfilled their State plans and also extra plans in the "Consignments for South Viet Nam" movement. The motor launch factory has completed in excess of plan two launches baptized "Ben Thanh," a "Dong Ba," another one in Hué, as a gift to the two sister cities.

In industry, the "Boost Production for South Viet Nam Saturday" movement initiated by workers at the Gia Lam loco-works has been extended to other days of the week under a slogan with a more ambitious content: "Take more jobs and produce more items to contribute to the total victory of the general offensives in Hué and Saigon." At the Yen Phu power plant the workers have launched a "South Viet Nam Electric Current" drive aimed at eliminating power failures in the city. At the Tran Hung Dao engineering factory, after completing the first half-year plan, workers have turned out Diesel motors in excess of plan bearing the "Hanoi-Hué-Saigon" inscription. At the "March 8" Textile Mill where 11 women weavers are engaged in patriotic emulation with eleven girls in Hué city who, between themselves, wiped out a whole U.S. battalion, the workers are striving, striving to contribute to the plan for an extra 10 million metres of cloth for the South Vietnamese patriots in 1968. So far this year the factory has produced more than one million metres in excess of plan. In agricultural production, the co-op farmers have translated into deeds their firm resolve to overcome natural calamities and aftermaths of the enemy war of destruction to implement intensive cultivation and improve animal husbandry. Since the beginning of the year the co-op farmers at Dong Du have built many more irrigation ditches and as a result winter crop have put under crops 20 hectares of rice more than scheduled. At present, the women farmers on Hanoi's outskirts, vying with their southern sisters, are endeavouring to reap hundreds of hectares of arid land into high-yielding fields.

In the educational, medical and cultural services the emulation movement is also making headway. More schools have been opened and others enlarged to meet the needs of increasing enrolments at all levels, primary, elementary as well as secondary education. The student bodies of universities and vocational schools in 1967-1968 more than doubled those in 1964-1965. Medical stations have been established even at the grassroots level. Cultural and artistic activities are given a push among small groups operating widely but scatteringly with a view to better serving the armymen, workers and farmers. A new way of life has been instituted in the families as well as in society and has not ceased spreading.

The Hanoi-Hué-Saigon emulation movement has not only stimulated the Hanoi people of all strata to record new achievements in the fighting, production and improvement of the living conditions but also enhanced the militant soli larity between the people in the three sister cities. It is a forceful expression of the sacred feeling of the 31 million people of our country who have always upheld the truth: the Vietnamese nation is one, Viet Nam is one, which no force on earth can alter.

1968 PLAN OVER FULFILLED BY MANY ENTERPRISES AND MINES

THE MAI THUY ELDERLY LADIES

THOSE who fought in Le Thuy, Quang Binh province, in the past armed resistance against the French colonialists could hardly forget the old mothers of Mai Thuy village whose dedication to the national cause has become a sort of legend. They made a wonderful job of tending wounded and sick armymen and did their share in the magnificent victories in Xuan Mai, My Loc, Xuan Lai and elsewhere.

This fine tradition the Mai Thuy mothers have raised to a new high in the past three years of resistance to the U.S. aggressors. The Mai Thuy Fighters' Mothers Association has a membership of 101 old women operating in four groups headed by Mothers Song, Hang Phanh, Dan and Phien. Each of them breeds a hen for the benefit of the wounded soldiers, and grows a bush of sugar cane and a grove of banana trees. They set apart a pine-apple garden for the men on rest leave. The group headed by Mother Hang has put a plot under 200 pine-apple plants and 80 banana trees. Four of the mothers have even presented the armymen with four pigs. Each time wounded or sick armymen make a stop-over in Mai Thuy, they come out to welcome them, treat them to delicious hot rice soup and the best bananas and pine - apples. Many of the "fighters' mothers" sit up all through the night fanning the wound-cases if it is hot, or doing the washing for all their protégés. The mothers also make frequent visits to the graves of fallen fighters, and extend unstinted assistance to their families. They buy clothing or school articles for their children and give them comfort and encouragement. The mothers' deep devotion has become a source of immense inspiration for the armymen on the battlefield.

The mothers receive a voluminous mail from the front full of the men's deep gratitude for their care and pledges to record new and bigger exploits. Each time they read a letter, the mothers say to one another, "Why should they talk of gratitude? Our modest contribution is only a matter of duty toward them. Now that because of our old age we can no longer take a direct part in the fight against the Yank aggressors, we must do our utmost to live up to the teaching of President Ho Chi Minh".

And they mean every word of theirs.

THE HANOI-HUE-SAIGON SWORN SISTERHOOD

NGUYEN VAN HIEU
Chairman of the Hanoi Committee of the Viet Nam Fatherland Front

EIGHT years ago when the South Vietnamese people rose in arms against the U.S. aggressors, the people of Hanoi capital gave them practical support by launching an emulation movement inspired by the sisterhood between Hanoi, Hué and Saigon. (Hué is the third largest city of Viet Nam, in Central Viet Nam—Ed.)

In the past eight years, the drive has been kindling the zeal of hundreds of thousands of armymen, workers, peasants, office employees, students... in Hanoi with the watchword "All for South Viet Nam, for sisterly Hué and Saigon."

In all branches of activity many units have started short-emulation phases named after places of scenic beauty, major victories, heroes and heroines of the South Viet Nam Liberation Army or scenes of bloody massacres by the enemy in Hué and Saigon. The achievements obtained in such drives have been disseminated to the Hué and Saigon peoples by letters or telegrams. Each time they receive news of victory of the Hué and Saigon armed forces and people or are informed of new crimes of the enemy in these cities, the Hanoi people immediately stage meetings to hail the successes or condemn the enemy's atrocities and each time the emulation movement is given a strong fillip.

In the past year the action became more vigorous than ever, stimulated by the big victories recorded since early this Spring by the armed forces and people in Hué and Saigon and the rest of South Viet Nam. In their fight against the U.S. air war of destruction, army units, armed security forces, militia and self-defence units in Hanoi promoted the readiness to make unqualified sacrifices for the Fatherland. The Hanoi armed forces shot down many U.S. planes in the competition to shoot down the 3,000th enemy plane. Since the U.S. aggressors were forced to a "limited bombing" then to an unconditionally halt of aerial, naval and artillery bombings on the whole territory of North Viet Nam, the Hanoi armed forces have been displaying great zeal in the drilling and high vigilance in their task of defending the capital city. Directly serving the fighting, the communication branch has maintained traffic open in all circumstances. Many of its units have fulfilled their State plans and also extra plans in the "Consignments for South Viet Nam" movement. The motor launch factory has completed in excess of plan two launches baptized "Ben Thanh," a "Dong Ba," another one in Hué, as a gift to the two sister cities.

In industry, the "Boost Production for South Viet Nam Saturday" movement initiated by workers at the Gia Lam loco-works has been extended to other days of the week under a slogan with

Landmarks Since 1960

in the PLAF March Towards Complete Victory

(Continued)

Mar. 19 — 4th Bau Bang victory: Three U.S. battalions put out of action, 100 military vehicles destroyed.

Mar. 21 — **Dong Rum** victory (Tay Ninh, 90km Northwest of Saigon). A U.S. base camp taken, a battalion and 3 armoured squadrons destroyed, another battalion decimated, 18 cannons destroyed, 5 helicopters downed, 1,000 GI's killed or wounded.

Mar. 24 — Successful ambush at **Moc Bai** (30km South-Southeast of Da Nang): 200 U.S. vehicles destroyed or damaged.

Mar. 31 — Failure of Operation *Sam Houston* in the Trei Djireng area, started on Feb. 15: 4,000 enemy troops including 2,000 GI's put out of action, 18 cannons and 105 vehicles destroyed, 54 planes and helicopters shot down or destroyed on the ground.

On the night of Apr. 5.— Storming of **Quang Tri** city and nearby La Vang base: 1,000 adverse soldiers put out of action, 125 vehicles destroyed.

Apr. 13— Total failure of Operation *Junction City* after 71 days of grim fighting: 24,000 adverse casualties listed (mostly GI's), a thousand-odd vehicles including 800 armoured cars and 90 cannons destroyed, 107 planes and helicopters shot down or damaged.

Disastrous results of the **2nd U.S. dry season strategic counter-offensive**: 175,000 men put out of action (including 70,000 GI's and 15,000 mercenaries of satellite countries) 1,800 planes and helicopters shot down or destroyed on the ground, nearly 4,000 vehicles (including 1,800 armoured cars) and 320 cannons destroyed or damaged, 100 war vessels and combat launches sunk or burnt (*enemy build up in South Viet Nam: 350,000 GI's, 54,000 mercenaries of satellite countries, 500,000 men of the puppet army, 4,500 planes and helicopters, 3,300 tanks and armoured cars, 2,300 heavy cannons*).

May. 7 — Heavy shelling of enemy positions South of DMZ, 17th parallel: 1,000 enemy casualties including 600 GI's.

Jul. 2-6 — **Glo An** victory South of DMZ: 1,300 U.S. marines put out of action, 16 tanks destroyed, 2 helicopters brought down.

13-16 *Sept.* — Series of successful combats in **My Tho** province (Mekong Delta): 1,000 GI's put out of action, 26 vessels sunk or burnt, 8 copters downed, 16 armoured cars destroyed.

Sept. — 47 heroes of the PLAF elected at *2nd Congress of Heroes and Elite Combatants of the PLAF.*

Oct. 29 - *Nov* 2.— **Beginning of 3rd dry-season.** PLAF Offensive in Loc Ninh (120 km North of Saigon): 2,800 enemy troops (including 2,000 GI's) put out of action, 40 armoured cars and 30 cannons destroyed, 8 planes and copters shot down.

Nov. 3 - 21 — PLAF offensive in **Dac To** (150 km South-Southwest of Da Nang): 3,500 adverse casualties (*for the first time*, **a whole U.S. brigade** — the 173rd Airborne — **put out of action**), 10 armoured cars and 8 cannons destroyed, 32 planes and choppers shot down.

Nov. 30 - *Dec.* 1 *and* 3 — Three big gun attacks on **Long Binh**, the biggest enemy logistic base in South Viet Nam (20 km Northeast of Saigon). Very heavy damage: stores of war materiel, fuel, munition and bomb dumps devastated in a 2-hectare area.

1968

Jan 3-7 — PLAF offensive in the **Que Son** sector (44km South of Da Nang): 1,600 U.S.-puppet casualties.

Night of Jan. 29 *to Jan.* 30. — **PLAF offensive** against enemy positions in the cities of **Da Nang, Hoi An, Kon Tum** and some other centres following the cancellation by the Saigon puppets of the **Tet** truce in the northern and southern provinces of South Viet Nam.

Jan 31. — A few hours after the total cancellation of the truce by the U.S. and its puppets, the PLAF launched a **generalised offensive** supported by **popular uprisings** across the country.

Feb. 1. — By this date, in 32 provinces, the people's and revolutionary forces had attacked or occupied 64 cities and towns (almost all the urban centres in South Viet Nam, 35 nerve organs, 24 air bases and 5 Radio stations: most of **Hué** city controlled by the PLAF and the insurgent people, more than half of **Saigon**, a part of **Da Nang**, etc...)

Feb. 17 *and* 18. — **Renewed attacks** on 70 enemy positions in 20 cities and urban centres.

Feb. 26. — By this date, 90,000 enemy troops killed, wounded or captured, 1,800 planes and choppers destroyed on the ground or shot down, 1,300 armoured cars destroyed or damaged.

Mar. 1. — **Series of attacks** against some 100 bases, airfields and storage depots by PLAF infantry and artillery.

Mar. 2-6. — Simultaneous attacks against 24 cities and 100 enemy bases and CP among them the **Bien Hoa** and **Da Nang air bases**, the Khe Sanh, Dong Ha, Gio Linh positions, etc...

Mar. 15. — Enemy losses since Tet put at 150,000 men killed, wounded or captured (including 45,000 GI's and foreign mercenaries): 3,500 vehicles and 300 *lorries destroyed, 2,200 planes and helicopters shot down or destroyed on the ground*, 233 war vessels sunk or burnt, 1.6 million people freed from the enemy's grip.

Mar. 22.— Westmoreland relieved of his Command.

Apr. 19. — The blackest day for the *First Air Cavalry*. Opening of Operation *Delaware* West of Hué: 34 helicopters shot down, 300 GI's killed or wounded.

May 5. — **New generalised offensives** against 122 enemy military targets in 58 cities and urban centres and some 30 airfields. **Saigon** partly controlled by the patriots and for the first time an enemy battalion destroyed in the vey heart of the city. After the first week of repeated strikes (May 11), the PLAF put out of action 30,000 adverse troops (10,000 in Saigon), destroyed, shot down or damaged 250 planes and choppers, destroyed or damaged 700 vehicules including 400 tanks and armoured cars, sunk or burnt 30 vessels.

May 17.— Fiasco of Operation *Delaware* West of Hué: 2200 U.S.-puppet troops put out of action, 200 choppers and planes destroyed or damaged on the ground, or shot down.

May 21 — Attacks in force against 3 U.S. positions in the Hué sector: the base of **Dong Lam** where remnants of the First Air Cavalry had just re-assembled (200 copters destroyed or damaged on the ground) that of **Don Tos** of an armoured regiment (100 engines destroyed or damaged, 1,000 GIs put out of action), that of the 101st Airborne Division (300 GIs killed or wounded 20 choppers and 6 cannons destroyed).

May 26 *and May* 27. — U.S. Navy disaster on the **Glo g Trom** river (Ben Tre province, Mekong delta): 39 vessels sunk or burnt, 1,600 GIs killed or wounded.

Jun 4. — Street fighting in **Saigon** devastated by U.S. bombs and shells: 3 companies of puppet Marines and Paratroops and 200 puppet policemen put out of action, 10 helicopters shot down and 17 armoured cars destroyed.

Jun 10. — Enemy targets in Saigon pounded for the 27th time since May 5.

Jun 26. — U.S. troops abandon **Khe Sanh** after having lost there, in 5 months, 15,000 men (including 11,700 GIs) put out of action, 450 planes and helicopters destroyed, shot down or damaged, 60 heavy cannons and mortars destroyed.

Jun 28 - *Jul.* 10. — **Results of a relief operation conducted by the enemy in the Trang Bang area** (45km northwest of Saigon): 1,100 GIs and 330 puppet soldiers put out of action, 116 vehicles and 7 cannons destroyed, 30 planes and helicopters shot down or damaged.

Jul 22-26, — Some 50 enemy positions attacked in the **Da Nang** sector. 1,000 enemy soldiers put out of action, 32 planes and helicopters destroyed.

Jul. 23-25.— New U.S. disaster in the **Giong Trom** area (Ben Tre), 1,000 U.S.- puppet troops put out of action, 25 vessels sunk or burnt, 14 helicopters shot down or burnt.

End Jul. — Sum-up of the **first 6 months** of the generalized offensives and uprisings: 380,000 adverse troops, including 133 000 GIs and mercenaries of satellite countries, put out of action, 4,400 planes and helicopters shot down, destroyed or damaged, 8,730 vehicles destroyed or damaged, 580 vessels sunk or burnt, hundreds of villages liberated, revolutionary power established and puppet administration disorganized in vast areas.

Aug. 17-*End Aug.* — New offensives against 30 cities, 100 other urban centres and enemy CP's and 30 airfields including those in Saigon, Hué, Da Nang and especially in **Tay Ninh** province.

Sept. 1-16. — 2,200 U.S.-puppet troops put out of action in the area close to the 17th parallel **Quang Tri** province, and 1,800 others in the **Western Highlands**.

Sept. 11 - 17. — In the **Tay Ninh** sector (northwest of Saigon), 2,600 enemy troops put out of action, 160 vehicles destroyed, 20 planes and helicopters shot down.

Sept. 11 - 14. — Around **Loc Ninh** (120km north of Saigon), 2 U.S. battalions and 6 U.S. companies wiped out, 55 tanks and armoured cars destroyed, 8 planes and helicopters shot down.

Night of Sept. 20. — **New offensives**: 120 enemy targets in Central Trung Bo attacked, among them 17 cities and 7 airfields including those of **Da Nang, Nuoc Man, Chu Lai**, and **Nha Trang**.

End Sept. — Two-month sum-up (Aug-Sept.): 123,000 adversaries (including 45,000 GIs and mercenaries of satellite countries) put out of action; 3,000 vehicles (including nearly 1,700 armoured) and 300 cannons and motars destroyed or damaged, 790 planes and helicopters shot down, destroyed or damaged, nearly 160 vessels sunk or damaged.

Nov. 1. — After more than 4 years of war escalation, Washington had to face this harsh fact: the bombing of North Viet Nam had been unable to stop the victorious march of the NFL. Johnson ordered the cessation of all air, naval and artillery bombardments of the DRVN.

NFL Releases U.S. and Puppet POW's

On the occasion of the 8th founding anniversary of the South Viet Nam NFL (Dec. 20) the PLAF command was instructed by the Central Committee of the NFL to set free a number of U.S. and puppet POW's.

According to official sources, the release of puppet POW's would take place locally, as had been done previously. Local NFL Committees and PLAF commands would provide facilities for them to go back to the right path.

In implementation of the South Viet Nam PLAF command order, the PLAF command in Eastern Nam Bo announced that 3 American POW's would be set free in a place in the liberated area of Eastern Nam Bo; the American command was to send unarmed representatives to the place clearly appointed by the Vietnamese side, at the appointed time on December 25, to meet representatives of the NFL in Eastern Nam Bo and arrange with them on the place, the time and procedure of the release.

Such a release of U.S. prisoners in war time testifies to the humanitarian and lenient policy of the NFL and the good will of the Vietnamese people. It is a gesture of response to the courageous action of American progressives against the U.S. dirty war of aggression in Viet Nam.

GLIMPSES OF FIGHTING SOUTH VIET NAM

(Paintings and drawings from South Viet Nam)

March on Dong Xoai
Woodcut by **Trang Phuong**

The "long-haired Army"
Water-Colour by **Le Lam**

PLAF men helping peasants with the harvest
Gouache by **Huynh Phuong Dong**

Volunteer careers at the front
Pen drawing by **Hoang Quoc Trong**

Saigon up in arms
Oil painting by **Trang Phuong**

THE VIET NAM AND THE WORLD

NFL 8th FOUNDING ANNIVERSARY WIDELY COMMEMORATED

THE 8th founding anniversary of the South Viet Nam NFL (Dec. 20) was marked in several countries by various activities showing great solidarity with the South Vietnamese people in their struggle against U.S. agression.

• In the **Soviet Union**, a Week of Solidarity with Viet Nam was inaugurated under the slogan "Staunch support to the DRVN government and the South Viet Nam NFL positions". Demonstrations, photo exhibitions, lectures, shows of films on the struggle of the South Vietnamese people against U.S. aggression were organized during the week. *Pravda*, central organ of the CPSU, published articles stressing that at present, our planet was ringing with such slogans as: "U.S. out of Viet Nam!", "End U.S. imperialist aggression!", "Peace in Viet Nam!" which expressed the peoples' rocklike determination to demand the end of U.S. aggression in South Viet Nam.

• In the **People's Republic of China**, a grand meeting was held in Peking under the auspices of the Peking Revolutionary Committee and the China—Viet Nam Friendship Association to commemorate the the NFL anniversary. Taking the floor at the meeting, Vice-chairman of the Peking Revolutionary Committee Wu Teh exalted the resounding victories of the South Viet Nam NFL and people in their heroic and persevering struggle against U.S. aggression. "700 million people of the PR of China, tempered in the great proletarian cultural revolution, will for ever obey the advice of Great leader Mao Tse-tung, and pledge to act as a solid rear-base for the Vietnamese people and to support them to the end in their struggle against U.S. aggressors", he stressed.

On this occasion, a film show on the struggle of the South Vietnamese people took place in the Chinese capital.

• Numerous actions to support the NFL and the struggle of the South Vietnamese peuple took place in the other countries of the socialist camp: **DPR of Korea, Cuba, Albania, German Democratic Republic, Hungary, Bulgaria, Mongolia, etc...**

Meetings, exhibitions, concerts, film performances, talks, collections, etc... were held everywhere in favour of the just cause of the heroic South Vietnamese people.

• In **Cuba**, from Dec. 1 on, members of the Executive Committee of the National Committee of Solidarity with the South Vietnamese people gave lectures in various localities, factories and schools on the struggle of the South Vietnamese people. 21 lectures were given in Havana alone.

• On December 14, at the closing session of the **International Conference of Miners held in Berlin**, the delegates of the trade unions of 29 countries in the five continents unanimously approved a resolution demanding the end of the U.S. war of aggression in South Viet Nam and the withdrawal of U.S. and satellite troops from South Viet Nam and the right for the South Vietnamese people to settle their own affairs in accordance with the NFL Political Programme. They also called on the miners and working masses in the world to step up the movement of support and assistance to the just struggle of the South Vietnamese people.

• In **Belgium**, nearly 1,000 people demonstrated in the capital, demanding the end of all U.S. violations of the independence and sovereignty of the DRVN and the withdrawal of U.S. troops from South Viet Nam. The demonstrators bearing NFL flags marched through the main streets of Brussels, shouting: "Long live the South Viet Nam NFL", "U.S. imperialists, go home!"

News from **LAOS**

Dry-Season Early Victories in Central and Lower Laos

THE Central and Lower Laos patriotic armed forces in successive attacks in November, the first month of the 1968-1969 dry season, inflicted on the enemy nearly 300 casualties and brought down or destroyed on the ground 12 U.S. aircraft, *Pathet Lao News Agency* (*KPL*) reported.

On Nov. 1st, the Savannakhet province patriotic armed forces mounted a surprise attack on the HQ of the puppet 33th battalion and an artillery site in Pha Lan area, killing or wounding 39 enemy troops including the battalion deputy-commander, and destroying many barracks and a quantity of arms and ammunition.

From Nov. 3 to 6, the patriots in Savannakhet and Attopeu provinces in a hunt for 7 groups of commandos helilifted for sabotage activity, killed 47 of them, wounded 12 others and knocked down 8 U.S. choppers. They captured 3 mortars and 7 M.16 sud-machineguns and other firearms and important documents.

In an engagement on Nov. 11 with U.S.-fostered bandits at a place 16km southeast of Tumlan, Savannakhet province, the patriotic armed forces killed 16 men and wounded many others.

In co-ordinated actions with guerrillas, the Lao People's Liberation Army on Nov. 13 attacked by surprise an enemy garrison north of the Pha Lan township, killing 31 troops and wounding many others.

The next day, a commando company was almost completely wiped out as soon as it penetrated a liberated area bordering on Saravane and Ta Ven Oc province.

On Nov. 16, in another engagement with puppet commandos at Sesu, Attopeu province, the patriots killed 50 enemy soldiers including two U.S. aggressors and downed 3 helicopters.

The most resounding victory last month was recorded Nov. 27 in Thateng area, Ta Ven Oc province, where over 100 adverse troops were wiped out and 9 military vehicles destroyed or captured. The local people also rose up, overthrew the puppet administration in the surrounding areas and set up the people's power.

WORLD CONSULTATIVE CONFERENCE ON VIET NAM GIVES UNRESERVED SUPPORT TO DRVN AND NFL POSITIONS

THE World Consultative Conference on Viet Nam opened in Stockholm (Sweden) on Dec 13.

It was attended by representatives of 16 international and national organizations from 50 countries. The delegation of the Viet Nam Peace Committee led by Prof. Hoang Minh Giam, deputy to the DRVN National Assembly, and that of the South Viet Nam Peace Committee led by Nguyen Duc Van were present.

In his opening speech, Bertil Svahnstrom, President of the International Co-ordination Committee of the Conference, extended greetings to the two Vietnamese delegations. He recalled the Vietnamese people's victories which forced the U.S. into an unconditional halt of the bombing of North Viet Nam and their will for peace, and castigated the U.S. holding up the Paris Conference and intensifying the war in Viet Nam. The task of the Stockholm Conference, he said, is to struggle for the complete withdrawal of U.S. troops from South Viet Nam and the recognition of the South Viet Nam NFL by the U.S.

Mr. Svahnstrom called for further stepped up actions in 1969 which will be the year of international mobilization to impel the Vietnamese people's struggle for final victory. He also called for material aid, especially medicines, for Viet Nam and for support for the anti-draft movement of American youths.

Delegates of U.S. anti-war movements of the Hemispheric Conference to End the war in Viet Nam and of various organizations in France, Italy, West Germany and other countries took the floor.

At this opening session, the delegates warmly acclaimed the speeches delivered by the leaders of the two Vietnamese delegations, Hoang Minh Giam and Nguyen Duc Van.

After 3 days' sitting the Conference wound up on Dec. 15. It passed a resolution on Viet Nam, an appeal to the world's peoples, a message to the Vietnamese people of both zones and another to the U.S. peace movement.

The resolution on Viet Nam says, "The World Consultative Conference on Viet Nam unreservedly supports the position of the DRVN Government expounded in its November 2, 1968 statement and the position of the South Viet Nam NFL made clear in the Front's statement of Nov. 3 and in the Nov. 5 joint statement of the Front and the Viet Nam Alliance of National, Democratic and Peace Forces concerning the political settlement of the South Viet Nam problem.

The Conference has worked out a programme of action and proposed new steps aimed at rallying still wider forces supporting the Vietnamese people. It urged all forces which seek peace in Viet Nam to unite and exert maximum pressure so as to compel the U.S. government to end all acts of encroachment upon the security and the sovereignty of the DRVN, withdraw all its troops and those of its satellites from South Viet Nam, remove all its military bases in South Viet Nam, let the Vietnamese people decide their own future themselves without foreign interference and see to it that the quadripartite conference in Paris yield results consistent with the principles of the Geneva Agreements.

The Conference declared that 1969 would be a year of international mobilization to end the war in Viet Nam and bring peace to the Vietnamese people.

In the message addressed to the people in both North and South Viet Nam, the Conference pointed out, "In the face of the intensification of the U.S. war of aggression in South Viet Nam and the serious violations of the sovereignty and security of the DRVN by the U.S. Government, we deem it necessary to assure you of our staunch support for your struggle until final victory.

"We fully support the 4 points of the DRVN and the 5 points of the South Viet Nam NFL, regarding them as the only sensible basis for a political solution to the Viet Nam problem.

"We call on all peace- and freedom-loving organizations and peoples in the world to increase, in all effective forms, their political, moral and material support to the Vietnamese people. We are fully conscious of the correlation between the struggle of the Vietnamese people for national salvation and the struggle for human liberty and dignity. We express our sincere gratitude to the Vietnamese people who have been waging a legitimate, heroic, stubborn and certainly successful struggle."

In the message to the U.S. peace movement, the Conference expressed its support for the big demonstration scheduled to be staged in Washington on Jan. 19, 1969, the eve of President Nixon's access to power.

The Conference also decided to send a delegation to Paris to express support for the reasonable positions of the delegation of the DRVN and that of the South Viet Nam NFL. This 12-member delegation was to include Bertil Svahnstrom and Mme Claire Culhane, President of "the Voice of Women" of Canada who had earlier observed a 10-day protest fast against U.S. aggression in Viet Nam.

MILITARY OPERATIONS

(*Continued from page 8*)

In the Western Highlands, a puppet battalion CP in the capital of **Gia Nghia** province (170 km northeast of Saigon) sustained serious losses on the night of Dec. 6. The patriots seized control of the terrain after they had put 100 adverse troops out of action. A nearby district town and military sub-sector HQ were pounded. Some 1,000 civilian highlanders seized this opportunity to dismantle the "strategic hamlets" in which they had been grouped by the U.S. and its puppets, then returned to their native villages. Next morning, the PLAF repulsed 6 companies rushed into the area. Enemy losses in these 2 days in Gia Nghia were put at 240 men killed or wounded. Further north, on Dec. 4 and Dec. 5, the **Buon Me Tnuot** airfield and enemy installations in **Duc Lap** camp came under fire.

A series of about 30 attacks were launched by the PLAF on the night of Dec. 15, in the area extending from **Da Nang** to **Quang Ngai** (120 km southeast of Da Nang). Important enemy installations suffered heavy damage, such as the **Yen Ne** logistic area at the entrance of Da Nang, the **An Hoa** airfield (45 km south-southeast of Da Nang), 4 sub sector HQ's in Quang Nam and Quang Tri provinces and 2 others in Quang Ngai province, etc... Enemy losses were said to be heavy.

In the **Dong Ha** sector, south of the DMZ, *GPPA* reported an important success of the PLAF at Hill 333 (10 km south-west of Con Tien): 250 GIs were put out of action on Dec. 11. Two days later, on 3 occasions, the patriotic gunners beat off 3 enemy attempts to move up the river from **Cua Viet** to Dong Ha. Three transport ships were sunk during these combats, and their wrecks are blocking the Cua Viet channel.

U.S. news agencies reported intense PLAF activities especially by artillery. On the night of Dec. 12, enemy installations in **Sa Dec** (Mekong Delta, 115 km southwest of Saigon) and **Loc Ninh** (118 km north of Saigon) were shelled. On Dec. 13, elements of the U.S. 25th Infantry Division stationed near **Trang Bang** (Northwest of Saigon) and on the following night, a U.S. Special Forces camp at **Ca tum** (110 km nothwest of Saigon) and a puppet post (27km west of Saigon) came under attack while 4 vessels were damaged in the **Plain of Reeds**, west of Saigon. On Dec. 14 a puppet company helilifted to the Plain of Reeds was violently engaged about 100km west-south-west of Saigon and 3 other companies rushed into its rescue were intercepted with serious losses. On the same day another vessel was hit on **Vam Co Dong** river. On the night of Dec. 14, at least 30 shells were slammed into the HQ of the 3rd Brigade, U.S. 25th Infantry, 100 shells into a U.S. artillery position in **Tay Ninh** and 15 others of enemy installations in **Kontum** city, Western Highlands. On the night of Dec. 16, 7 helicopters were destroyed at **Buon Me Thout** airfield. Next day, **many military vehicles were blown up to pieces in an ambush** on the route between Dau Tieng and Tay Ninh. On the night of Dec. 17 a heavy artillery bombardment was mounted against the **Ca tum** camp (80 shells) the base of the U.S. 173rd Airborne Brigade at An Khe (235 km south of Da Nang) a logistic centre and the **Nuoc Man** airfield next door to Da Nang, the base of the U.S. *First Air cavalry* at **Phuoc Vinh** (60 km north-northeast of Saigon) the HQ of the *Tropic Lightning* Division (30 km northwest of Saigon) and that of puppet Division 25 at **Duc Hoa** (25km west of Saigon) where 80,000 litres of petrol were burnt, etc...

To An American Friend

(Continued from page 8)

the struggle for freedom. Lawyer Nguyen Huu Tho put all his knowledge and his talents at the service of the innocent and patriots who fell into the hands of the oppressor. Political prisoners without either money or relatives, far from having to pay him fees, could instead count on his pecuniary aid as well as on the visits of devoted friends organized by himself. Yet Lawyer Nguyen Huu Tho did not engage in politics.

Meanwhile, the hostilities were dragging on. The United States stepped in then took into its hands the reins of the country through a handful of its strawmen. Thus the hour sounded for Lawyer Nguyen Huu Tho and, one after another, other members of our intelligentsia in the town, to take their political stand. Moved by a certain compassion and dissatisfied with the regime, Lawyer Nguyen Huu Tho step by step entered into the political arena. He contributed articles to newspapers, took the floor in public meetings then called on the masses to take to the streets. Each arrest, each imprisonment only served to enhance his political awareness and strengthened his resolve to urge the people to rise up in arms and throw the invader out. Like most intellectuals, like you and me, he originally wished, believe me, to use if needed the pen and words to secure independence and freedom, for him as well as his fellow-countrymen.

You must have known that he has long been a fervent peace advocate. You must have also known that he finally has taken up arms and called on his compatriots, his friends — the South Vietnamese intellectuals — to follow suit. Why? That is, I can assure you, because there was no other alternative.

What do you think of it, dear friend? For my part, I am certain of one thing, that is if I were still in the South, I would have long ago responded to his appeal and have myself risen up. I am also certain of another thing, that is you who love peace and are convinced that the cause of peace could not be dissociated from that of independence and freedom, you who are an intellectual anxious to live up to that name and a peace militant who want to deserve this title, if you were in our place, you would, like ourselves, have risen up to struggle. It cannot be otherwise.

We have more than one confirmation of that viewpoint. At the time of the founding of the Front, many Vietnamese intellectuals unhesitatingly threw in their lots with the Front. A considerable number of them grouped into a political party which has joined the Front: the Radical Socalist Party. When of late the Liberation Armed Forces pressed their assaults on the towns themselves, it was a good opportunity for many intellectuals who until then had not been able or had not made up their minds to take a direct part part in the struggle, to do so. An Alliance of National, Democratic and Peace Forces was created at the head of which I am happy to see another former leader of the 1954 Peace Movement, one of my closest friends, Lawyer Trinh Dinh Thao, as well as other former peace militants.

What more can we see at present in Saigon, Hué and other South Viet Nam cities? The students and intellectuals have been holding continuous teach-ins on peace, to urge the Americans to withdraw their troops from the Vietnamese territory so as to make it possible for the return of peace and settlement by the Vietnamese of their own problems, first and foremost the reunification of the country by peaceful means. It is not the first time that such a movement has surged up. Peace and the demand for the peaceful reunification of the country from foreign interference have not ceased haunting the minds of so many people there since 1954 when our Peace Movement for the first time gave forceful expression to this profound aspiration of our entire people. The Americans have tried hard the sabre-rattling trick. But only to no avail. And now the movement is stronger than ever... And what was my part in all that? Yes, you were sticking to your question... How is it that I who took part in the struggle in the South am now in the North? I think you might have found a right answer to this question the day when we organized a small party to bid you farewell. You might have noticed that day that together with me were many other people native of the South or having for a long time fought in the South but at present working, like me, in the North. Then, you also knew that the Premier of our Government, the President of our National Front called Fatherland Front, the President of our Supreme Court, many ministers and other highranking officials of the DRVN, as well as the First Secretary of the Viet Nam Workers' Party, are natives of the South. You must have known at that time that the fact that I who was born in the North but took part in the struggle in the South, just as the fact that many of my friends who were born in the South and are serving here in the North do not make particular difference to us. Or more exactly, that means that for us, the South or the North is one and the same thing. In the North or the South we are all in Viet Nam... It is exactly as, you see, a Texan who works in Chicago or Washington: there in nothing extraordinary in this in your eyes, nor in the inverse case, isn't it? That means, in other words, the argument on which the U.S. authorities have based themselves to meddle in our affairs does not hold water. There are not two Viet Nams, as alleged by Mr. Johnson, on the unified territory of our country; From Lang Son to Point Ca Mau, the Vietnamese people are one. Besides, Mr. Johnson contradited himself on this very point when he chose Nguyen Cao Ky, a traitor, and gave him a role, a boisterous one at that, in the Saigon administration: he is every inch a North Vietnamese.

It must be pointed out that until now the myth cultivated by the American leaders, from Republican to Democrat, to deceive American opinion, still has its currency: if there is war in Viet Nam, that is because, they lie impudently, there is a conflict between the two zones, between two antagonistic political systems, between two countries which are quite distinct from each other or at least tend to differ from each other... The truth is that the Americans, after having failed completely in their scheme to use the South as a springboard to seize the North, have been endeavouring vainly in effect, to carry out their minimum plan: keep the two zones apart to hold on at least to the South. It goes without saying that our people, our countrymen in both zones, will never let them realize such a scheme that cuts across so brutally the most sacred aspirations and sentiments of our people.

Yes, it is true that I was born in the North and joined the struggle in the South, that I am serving in the DRVN like may others who happen to be in the same position as I. And it is equally true that I am ready, like themselves, when my country needs me there or when my fellow-countrymen in the South claim me, to go there and fight. The relations between the North and the South are, as we intellectuals in Viet Nam conceive them, and as our entire people conceive them, like this: when the Fatherland falls victim to an aggression, wherever this aggression takes place, it is equally incumbent on every citizen, wherever he may live, to rise up for her defence. The friends of Viet Nam don't view them otherwise either: for them, to help our people is to help them in both zones.

As a member of the World Peace Council, I have been doing my best to bring home to all friends of peace throughout the world, the Americans in the first place, the truth on the war in Viet Nam. It is a criminal war of aggression waged by U.S. imperialism with unheard-of ferocity against all or part of our national territory and which, meeting with a stubborn resistance from our indomitable people fighting for their independence and their freedom, is heading irresistibly for an ignominious failure.

You are among those who, at a given moment, believed the tale of the U.S. leaders that the war in Viet Nam is at the present time one between the North and the South. You are an American, an authentic heir to the traditions of independence and freedom of the American people; you are an intellectual, a peace fighter. Do you want, on this anniversary of the founding of the South Viet Nam NFL whose birth you know now why the Vietnamese in the North are celebrating with as much feeling as their kindred in the South, do you want us to promise to each other to make every effort to throw light on the truth on Viet Nam, on this devastating conscience-shocking war between the U.S. imperialist aggressor and the Vietnamese people yearning for independence and peace? The sooner this war is brought to an end, the sooner the friendship between our two peoples, both victims of U.S. aggressive imperialism, can be contracted and strengthened.

PHAM HUY THONG

TO THE READER

We are aware that there is much room for improvement in the wording of our paper. We apologize for this shortcoming and highly appreciate all your suggestions as they will help us to serve you more efficiently in future.

U.S. PILOTS CAPTURED AUTHORIZED TO RECEIVE CHRISTMAS PARCELS

IN line with the DRVN Government's humanitarian policy the General Political Department of the Viet Nam People's Army has decided to authorize U.S. pilots captured in North Viet Nam to receive Christmas parcels from their families.

Lawyer NGUYEN HUU THO, President of the NFL CC Presidium.

Mr. YBIH ALEO, Vice-president of the NFL CC Presidium.

Mr. VO CHI CONG, Vice-president of the NFL CC Presidium.

Dr. PHUNG VAN CUNG, Vice-president of the NFL CC Presidium.

Mr. HUYNH TAN PHAT, Vice-president of the NFL CC Presidium.

Mr. TRAN NAM TRUNG Vice-president of the NFL CC Presidium.

Mrs. NGUYEN THI DINH, member of the NFL CC Presidium, deputy commander of the PLAF

Military Operations

PLAF Very Active Chiefly in the Saigon and Da Nang Areas

★ **2 battalion CP's 8 companies put out of action, 3 battalions badly mauled**

★ **Some 30 attacks in one night (Dec. 15 to Dec. 16) against enemy positions between Da Nang and Quang Ngai.**

★ **U.S.-puppet bases and positions pounded daily all over South Viet Nam.**

IN the past week, *Giai Phong* Press Agency reported important successes obtained by the patriots in Eastern Nam Bo (comprising the Saigon area). Other major successes were reported in the Mekong delta, the Da Nang sector, the Western Highlands and the area adjoining the 17th parallel of Quang Tri province.

On the night of Dec. 12, an operational base of the 3rd Brigade, U.S. 9th Infantry at **Binh Tinh** (35km Southwest of Saigon) was violently attacked. One of its positions was completely, and 2 others partly, destroyed. A battalion CP, a command company, 2 infantry companies and a **Radio** station were reduced to rubble, 3 companies and 3 platoons of artillerymen and machine-gunners badly mauled, 10 M.113 APC's and 3 helicopters destroyed, and 5,000 litres of petrol burnt.

Five days before, on the night of Dec. 7 to Dec. 8, at a point 34km from Saigon to the northwest, after 40 minutes' fighting, a U.S. encampment was also wiped out, with nearly 200GI casualties, and a battalion CP, 25 armoured cars and 2 heavy mortars destroyed.

On Dec. 8, at **Dong Tron**, about 50km Northnorthwest of Saigon, some 100 GIs of a company helilifted to the area were killed or wounded in a 20-minute battle, and as a result the company was put out of action.

In **Saigon** itself, on Dec. 4, guerillas destroyed, in 2 different places, 3 U.S. vehicles, wiping out many GIs.

In the Mekong delta, the PLAF struck hard at enemy forces in **Tra Vinh** province (about 100 km south of Saigon) which suffered, in the first 10 days of Dec. 850 casualties (3 companies and one platoon written off, 3 battalions decimated) among them 430 GIs (3 companies put out of action) in **Tra On** district alone between Dec. 7 and Dec. 10.

(Continued page 7)

To an American Friend

ON THE OCCASION OF THE 8th FOUNDING ANNIVERSARY OF THE SOUTH VIET NAM NATIONAL FRONT FOR LIBERATION

(Continued)

SUCH is, in a nutshell, what the South Viet Nam NFL is like. Its exploits are resounding all over the world as an epic of modern times: that phrase is not mine, I borrow it from Lord Bertrand Russell. But its roots are, as you can see for yourself, what is the most modest: a popular movement born of unambitious weeds, the thirst for independence and freedom, and the longing for peace.

And who are they, those who are taking part in the Front and even assuming its leadership? Among them are intellectuals like you or me, without political ambition or support of any kind. Neither think that they have been motivated by some revolutionary elan, as if by grace, right at the start of the struggle. But tell me, do you believe that we, you or I, could keep away from the sufferings, feelings and hopes of our respective peoples and our epoch without our dignity as men revolting?

Lawyer Nguyen Huu Tho is no exception: I have more than one friend in the same situation among the present leaders of the NFL: Mme Nguyen Thi Binh, Professor Nguyen Van Hieu, Engineer Le Van Tha, members of the Front Central Committee; Professor Le Van Huan, member of the Front Central Committee and President of the South Viet Nam-Latin America Solidarity Committee, Architect Huynh Tan Phat, Vice-presidents and Secretary-general of the Front; Dr. Phung Van Cung, Vice-president of the Front and President of the South Viet Nam Peace Committee... But the most typical case is, without any doubt, that of Lawyer Nguyen Huu Tho.

How far you may delve into his past, Lawyer Nguyen Huu Tho has never had any political ambitions. But right in the days of French colonialist occupation, he already earned himself a good name as a barrister in South Viet Nam. With a high sense of dedication to his profession, and to his clients, he was set to defend the cause of the underdogs, victims of the unjust society in those damned times. Then came the war of resistance and

(Continued page 7)